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able power and patronage which the planter claimed they greatly abused. As a result of these conditions the planters were discontented. They desired local self-government, a voice in the administration of the exterior control and a modification of the navigation acts. The problem that confronted them was how to bring about these changes and at the same time guarantee the existence of slavery and the slave trade. Already the mulattoes were demanding the abolition of the "aristocracy of color" and the slaves, since the founding of the *Société des amis des noirs* in Paris in 1788, had a champion for their cause beyond the sea who was working for the abolition of the slave trade and the gradual emancipation of the slaves. The remaining four chapters are devoted to the struggle carried on by these different factions both in the colonies and in France.

This study of conditions of affairs in the French West Indies is of value only to students of the period of the French revolution. So much knowledge is presupposed that those unfamiliar with the men and events of the time would derive but little benefit from reading it. For the special student, however, there are some well organized details not to be found elsewhere so well presented in secondary accounts.

N. M. MILLER SURREY

*José de Gálvez, visitor-general of New Spain (1765-1771)*. By Herbert Ingram Priestly, assistant curator, Bancroft library, University of California. [University of California publications in history, volume V] (Berkeley: University of California press, 1916. 448 p. \$2.75)

The latest addition to the *University of California publications in history* fully maintains the high standard of that series and proves an admirable companion volume to the previous numbers by Smith and Bolton and a necessary supplement to Chapman's *Founding of Spanish California*. It is, therefore, doubly welcome as evidence of fruitful coöperation and earnest of further productiveness.

The introductory chapters, forming about a third of the book, are of more than passing interest. The biographical sketch of Gálvez, with many regional and personal details, is, in a book of this sort, as unexpected as it is helpful. The chapter devoted to "The historical background" gives a very necessary setting for those that are to follow. It is well to emphasize, as the author does, the growing influence of France, during the eighteenth century, in Spanish councils, largely at the expense of England, and the necessary emphasis upon fiscal reform for the sake of increasing the national revenues. In this task of guiding the policy of Spain commercial agents played a greater part than regular

diplomats, although an occasional incident, such as the dispute over the Falkland islands and Honduras, which are briefly mentioned, gave the foreign offices of all three nations sufficient concern. But it is chiefly the desire to improve administration at home and in the colonies that makes necessary the visitation of José de Gálvez. Mr. Priestly does well to note that this impulse for reform did not originate with Charles III, but was characteristic of the Bourbon régime before him, although that enlightened despot fostered its most striking development.

The chapter on "The administration of New Spain" presents a concise but valuable summary of political conditions in New Spain at the middle of the eighteenth century. Despite its brevity the author also takes pains to touch upon some social and economic conditions that have a direct bearing upon his subject. The chapter on "The origin and character of the general visitation" is necessary and illuminating. From it we learn something of the functions and powers of previous visitors-general, as well as the instructions that determined the policy of Gálvez during the years 1765-1771.

This lengthy introduction is space well utilized in preparation for the visitation proper. For nearly three decades no visitor-general had been sent to New Spain and reforms in its fiscal administration, in keeping with the system already established in the mother country, seemed absolutely necessary. Gálvez represented the dominant French influence that had already achieved results in Spain and was well fitted by training and character to undertake this unwelcome task and push it to a definite conclusion in her most productive colony. This task involved unrelenting toil, persistently followed in spite of interested factional opposition, bodily infirmity, and terrifying physical obstacles. Sonora and Lower California needed his presence as well as Vera Cruz, Jalapa, and Mexico City. He must assist in suppressing insurrection and in visiting punishment upon the disaffected, even though he had to defer, while thus engaged, his wider plans for fundamental reforms. His activity on the northern frontier led to the extension of settlement in Alta California, a more careful delimitation of the presidial line in New Mexico and Texas, and more consistent efforts to pacify the barbarous Indians. Ultimately his measures resulted in the establishment for the entire northern area of a *commandancia general*, partially independent of the viceroy. His efforts to establish a tobacco monopoly, to introduce commercial reforms at Vera Cruz and Acapulco, and to guard more carefully the collection of internal revenues and the administration of municipal corporations involved greater difficulties, because of concerted personal opposition, but ultimately reached partial fruition in the system of *intendencias*, later established throughout New Spain. The critics of

Gálvez claim that he was harsh and vindictive toward his opponents, and unnecessarily cruel in suppressing malcontents, and Mr. Priestly coincides with this view. But the visitor's main purpose was to increase the revenues of the crown by checking graft and preventing waste in the public service. He did not aim to improve the methods of legal procedure or to correct the more glaring social and economic abuses that affected New Spain. The discontent excited by his severity came to a head a generation later in the wars of independence, but in the interim the revenues of New Spain were more productive than ever before in their history. For this reason Gálvez is accounted one of the two most efficient colonial administrators of the Bourbon régime.

A long closing chapter on the *Real Hacienda*, both before and after the time of Gálvez, serves the double purpose of summarizing the fiscal side of his work and of explaining in some detail the various sources of royal revenue from the colony and the method by which it was collected and transmitted to Spain. While this chapter has fewer references to manuscript sources than the others, it shows careful study of the best authorities and affords a welcome summary of this difficult field. In general, Mr. Priestly has handled his sources well and presents his conclusions tersely and clearly. He gives a complete bibliography and a full usable index. A portrait of Gálvez and a view of his birthplace, with several reproductions of contemporary maps, comprise the illustrations. The sketch map at the close of the volume contains too few names to be thoroughly useful. One may criticise his use of italic type, or his failure in a few instances to use it, but the author himself has already disarmed this criticism. Altogether he is to be congratulated for having produced a useful and readable study in Latin American institutional history.

I. J. Cox

*Cotton as a world power.* A study in the economic interpretation of history. By James A. B. Sherer, Ph.D., LL.D., president of Throop college of technology. (New York: Frederick A. Stokes company, 1916. 452 p. \$2.50 net)

Mr. Sherer tells us that some years ago, while reading Frank Norris's novel *The octopus* the thought occurred to him that the epic of the wheat was of no more interest than the story of cotton, "the new golden fleece." The result is a neat and attractive volume in which the author has sought to tell with some literary embellishment the history of cotton from its earliest antiquity to the present day.

Perhaps there was little opportunity in one small volume to bring out much new material on so large a subject, but at any rate Mr. Sherer has